

## MODEL MINING CAMP IN UTAH DESCRIBED

Eastern Publication Tells About the Town of Newhouse

The November number of Mines and Minerals contains an article by Leroy A. Palmer on "Newhouse, Utah: A Model Town in the Desert." The article is given here.

Leaving Frisco, Utah, the location of the Horn Silver mine, with a dividend record of over \$12,000,000, a new extension of an old railroad skirts the Grampian hills and drops on a 34 per cent grade into Wah Wah valley.

At first sight Wah Wah valley appears no different from many others in the Great American desert and is a basin about forty miles long and ten wide, mountains on all sides, and no vegetation save the ever-present sagebrush and cactus. Emerging from a deep cut, one finds before him a town—a mining camp. But this camp does not present any of the characteristics of the typical group of buildings that spring up around a mine or group of mines. It is not like the one in the story "A mile and a half long and eighteen inches wide," but rather the first impression it gives to one who approaches it over the railroad and thus has a chance to view it from a superior elevation is one of neatness and regularity. The buildings are all arranged on a carefully laid plan, their white cement coats gleaming in the sun, and the typical group of buildings of the town, and the circular plaza with its fresh green to relieve the monotony of the dust-covered vegetation of the rest of the valley. It is Newhouse, the model town built by the Newhouse Mines & Smelters for the employees of the Cactus mine and Cactus mill.

## Plan of Town.

The plan of the town is a quadrant. At the point is the plaza, north of which are the two buildings of the Cactus Inn, the employees' boarding house, and west of which is the Cactus club. The new store and postoffice will also face the plaza between these two. There are three streets, two running from the plaza at right angles to each other, and a third, curved, joining them. On both sides of these streets, well spaced and with plenty of room between, are the houses, mostly three and four-room cottages, all with cement finish, neat in appearance with roomy porches and tasteful decoration. The buildings that naturally attract one's attention first, because of their greater size, are the Cactus inn and the Cactus club.

The Cactus inn consists of two brick buildings, one used for a dining room and kitchen and the other for the sleeping rooms of the men. The dining room is large and well lighted, with no ceiling, seating 100 persons, six at a table. The kitchen is thoroughly equipped and provided above with sleeping accommodations for the mine employees. And joining the west room, through which one enters the dining room, is a barber shop.

The other building is a radical departure from the great barn-like bunk house so commonly seen at mines. One enters a roomy lobby, from which halls open on two sides. Opening off these halls are the sleeping rooms, twenty-four on the first floor and twenty-six on the second, affording accommodations for 50 men. Each room is furnished with three iron beds, one double and one single, chairs and table. On each floor is a lavatory and bath room, with stationary wash bowls and three shower baths, all connected with hot and cold water. Before winter a steam heating plant will be installed. The club house, facing the plaza, is

in the shape of a Maltese cross, with a wide veranda filled with porch chairs and seats along the front. As one enters he finds himself in the card room, with the office at the left. The card room takes up the center and east limb of the cross. At the back is a large brick fireplace, on each side of which is a door to the barroom in the west limb. The reading room is in the north limb. It is a comfortable room with large reading table, book shelves, writing desk, davenport, easy and Morris chairs and has a brick fireplace similar to the one in the card room. It is supplied with the leading dailies from the intermountain region and the coast and Denver, and the principal weekly and monthly magazines.

Opposite the reading room, in the south limb of the cross, is the billiard room, also with its large fireplace. Here are billiard and pool tables, with all of the apparatus for various games of pool. Two smaller porches are at the rear, one on each side of the barroom, accessible from it and from the reading and billiard rooms. The bar is up to date in every respect and in charge of a competent bartender. Here one can buy the best of liquors and at prices far below those usually charged in mining camps and, in fact, in most western cities. Sobriety is strictly enjoined on all members, and in order to do away with the most prolific cause of intoxication the club has adopted a "no treating rule," which forbids any member to pay for a drink for another.

The amount of the stakes for which any game may be played is also limited by rule of the board of directors to such a trifling amount as to prevent any great sum of money from changing hands.

For all of the privileges of the club employees of the company pay an initiation fee of 50 cents and monthly dues of 25 cents. Government is in the hands of a board of seven directors, elected annually by the members. Membership is, of course, entirely voluntary, but very few of the employees have failed to avail themselves of the privilege, and their appreciation of the club is shown by the liberal patronage that it receives in every part of it.

## Cottages Rent Cheap.

The cottages are all built on the same general plan, most of them containing three rooms, the smaller of which is 11x11½ feet. They are well lighted and conveniently arranged. There are ample provisions for heating; each kitchen has hot and cold water and cemented cellar; each bedroom has a roomy closet and shower bath, and the entire house is wired for electric lights. Such a three-room cottage rents for \$10 a month, which includes water and light.

The mine is located about one and a half miles distant from the town, with which it is connected by a standard gauge railroad. A Shay engine transports the ore and supplies, and, twice a day, takes the men to their work in a passenger coach.

The mill site adjoins the town. The mill is of 300 tons daily capacity, built of structural steel and equipped for so thoroughly working the ore that 90 to 95 per cent of the values are said to be saved. The electric power used in the mill and for lighting the streets and buildings is generated by Westinghouse steam turbines, the only ones in use west of the Missouri river. Before the present company obtained control the mine was operated by a French syndicate, which proved a financial failure, because water could not be obtained in sufficient quantities to mill the ore. To overcome this difficulty the Newhouse Mines & Smelters purchased the ranch at Wah Wah

spring, eight miles distant across the valley, thus securing a supply of water estimated at 1,200 gallons a minute. This water is carried through four-inch and twelve-inch pipe lines to a reservoir above the town. The entire waterworks system, including the \$30,000 paid for the springs, represents an outlay of about \$100,000.

The town, although already an attractive place for one situated in the midst of a desert, is as yet far from complete. A school house is in process of construction and will be followed by a chapel, a railroad station, a modern store and postoffice building and more houses as an increase in the force of employees demands them.

## Reason for Methods.

Newhouse didn't simply happen. It is the working out of a carefully-laid plan that it's proprietor, Samuel Newhouse, has had in his mind for years past, and long before it sprang into earth was turned he had in imagination located every principal building and every street of the little town that was to bear his name.

Mr. Newhouse has been a miner himself. He has known the ups and downs of life, and he long ago realized that the more contentedly and more happily, and therefore work better and more readily when in the midst of pleasant surroundings. So this town was built to give to his employees a true home spot in the midst of the desert to which their work must take them, to bring them together in helpful social intercourse during their leisure hours and, more than that, to make each man feel that he is an individual in whom his employer is directly interested, simply a wheel on a great machine.

The motive in building the place was, therefore, not a selfish one, but there is no reason why such a camp should not prove a profitable investment wherever there is a mine that gives promise of long life. Three-room cottages cost complete about \$800 and return an annual rental of \$120, a gross income of 15 per cent, which, with a liberal allowance for maintenance and depreciation, would net the company 10 per cent annual on the investment. With such a mine as the Cactus, whose ore bodies already exposed give promise of a large output for an indefinite number of years, the outlay would be entirely repaid, with a very fair rate of interest besides, and who can say but the company that follows this policy of providing a pleasant environment for its employees and showing an interest in them other than that which involves a matter of dollars and cents will find that the much mooted labor question has settled itself so far as they are concerned?

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## Story of the Missing \$20,000 Package.

How the Slight Mishap of a Pacific Express Messenger Threw the Whole System Into Turmoil Between Omaha and Salt Lake.

"The recent theft of \$100,000 by a clerk in the employ of the Adams Express company at Pittsburg, brings to mind a strange incident that same under my knowledge," remarked an old-time Salt Lake expressman yesterday. "The public has little knowledge of the vast sums carried by the express companies," he said, "and it is this secrecy thrown around their business that makes the handling of money by them comparatively safe."

"One of the first rules learned by an employee of any of the large express companies is to keep his mouth shut and his superiors see to it that the rule is enforced. By this means packages of money are carried from one city to another; taken to banks and delivered under the eyes of thousands of people on the streets and not one for a moment suspects that the clerk or driver for the company has a fortune concealed with him in his leather sack."

"One would think a man carrying about such large sums of money would be nervous, but such is not the case. Like everything else he becomes used to it, and in time packages of bills or sacks of coin are handled with as much disregard of their value as if it was so much ordinary merchandise."

## When Officials Were Anxious.

"It is this carelessness that led to the disappearance of a package of bills containing \$20,000 that gave the officials of the Pacific Express company a bad scare, and for a couple of days had them wondering if this amount would have to come out of the yearly profits of the company." For nearly two days the head officials of the company from Omaha to Salt Lake were hourly exchanging telegrams and employees of the company all along the route were watched with suspicion.

"A package of bills amounting to \$20,000 was shipped from an Omaha bank to one in Denver, but as the messenger nearing Denver started to 'out-check' his money, he discovered he was 'short' this particular package, and under printed orders at once notified Superintendent G. P. Stebbins at Omaha. Mr. Stebbins at once wired Superintendent Griffith at Denver, Superintendent Gentsch at Salt Lake, and the transfer point agents along the line to begin the hunt for the money, or, if stolen, to try and locate the guilty parties. In an hour every person who could possibly have handled that package was under suspicion, and I can tell you it is not a pleasant feeling to have one's superior watching every move he makes, with perhaps the thought that he might be the guilty party."

"The package in question was traced from the bank in Omaha to the up-town office of the express company, where it was received for. From there it was 'way-billed' to Denver and taken to the Omaha depot office, where, in turn, it was received for by Dick Miller, the Omaha-Cheyenne messenger. At Julesburg Miller got the 'check' of the Julesburg-Denver messenger for the package, and it was the latter who, a few hours afterward, telegraphed that he was 'short' the money."

## Keep Close Watch on All.

"Miller was also notified shortly after leaving Julesburg, and immediately searched the car for the missing package. An employee of the company was

sent out from Cheyenne to meet Miller and keep an eye on him for the rest of his 'run.' He was at once taken in tow by an employee of the company and closely questioned. He told a straight story of how he had the money all right and 'checked' it over to the messenger en route to Denver. Nevertheless, he was told he could not leave town until the mystery was cleared up.

"The Denver messenger was treated in a like manner when he arrived at the end of his 'run.' In the meantime the men who transfer merchandise at Julesburg and touch elbows with the messengers while they are 'checking' their money, were also on the carpet. The car was again searched at Cheyenne and the employees here were carefully watched to see that Miller did not in some way hand the money over to a confederate."

"About thirty hours after this small-sized fortune had disappeared as completely as if it dropped in the ocean, Superintendent Gentsch of Salt Lake received a telegram dated at Evanston, Wyoming: 'Have a package of \$20,000 addressed to Denver bank. What shall I do with it?' and signed by the Cheyenne-Ogden messenger, Mr. Gentsch at once wired to bring the money to Ogden and turn it over to E. C. Johnson, agent at Ogden, who, by the way, is a brother of Lou Johnson, secretary to Mayor Morris. The messenger who found the money was ordered to Salt Lake and a telegram to Stebbins at Omaha quickly relieved the strain on the eastern end of the division."

"The Cheyenne-Ogden messenger was at once called to Superintendent Gentsch's private office here in Salt Lake, and asked to explain how he had the money in his possession for nearly twenty hours before reporting the loss and also to explain how he had got possession of it. When Mr. Gentsch got this messenger's telegram he at once reasoned that the Cheyenne-Ogden messenger was in with Miller, but had weakened as he neared Ogden and had decided to give up the money."

## How the Package Was Lost.

Then came the true story of the missing money, and it goes to show how simple it would be to lose this sum and how easy it would be for another person who was not honest to get away with it.

In the express cars of that time a small wooden cupboard was built along side of the safes. These were divided into two compartments, one above and one below. In the lower the messenger kept his oil and lamps, while in the upper he usually stored any of his belongings for that trip. The top of the safe was used as a table on which one messenger "checked" over his money to another. Usually there are several hundred packages with the waybills to be handled in a few minutes by these men, while transfer men are carrying the packages from one car to another. It is all bustle around a car at this time, as the conductor is usually standing outside, watch in hand, ready to report 5 minute's delay waiting on the express company.

This was the case at Julesburg, and Miller in checking over this package first showed it to the connecting messenger and then laid it on top of the safe, where it was evidently accidentally knocked to the floor by some of the transfer men in rushing past the safe. Here it was again accidentally kicked into the open cupboard, and the door probably kicked shut by the next man

who went past. The connecting messenger, after receiving for his pile of packages, hastily dumped them into his small safe, locked it and it was then carried over into the connecting car. When he began to "outcheck" the contents of this safe the money had disappeared, although he had receipts for it.

## Cash Among the Oil Cans.

Miller searched the car in vain, never for a moment thinking of looking under the bottom of the cupboard among the oil cans and lamps for the missing money. On arriving at Cheyenne nothing was said to the connecting messenger about the missing money, as at that time the officials of the company were already on the hunt for the person who they supposed had taken this package. The Cheyenne-Ogden messenger received his "run" from Miller and before starting in to recheck the carload of express hastily opened the cupboard door and threw in a loaf of bread he had bought to eat on the trip to Ogden. For the next twenty hours he was a busy man, and just before reaching Evanston had his car in shape to turn over to the man west of Ogden. Then he began to prepare the first meal he had time to eat since leaving Cheyenne, and going to the cupboard for his loaf of bread saw

what he thought to be a piece of old paper sticking out from among the oil cans. Stooping down and picking it up he turned it over, and through the dirt accumulated by the thirty hours jolting against lamps and oil cans read the address of a Denver bank and saw that the package contained \$20,000 in currency.

To say he was surprised is putting it mildly. Had Miller told him the money was missing it would have been different, and he had no way of knowing how the money got there or how long it had been there. At the next station he sent the wire to Superintendent Gentsch at Salt Lake, upon whose division he worked, that cleared up the mystery of the missing package which for thirty hours had nearly caused nervous prostration among the head officials of the Pacific Express company, from President Morseman down. The messenger then came to Salt Lake and explained matters, which were perfectly satisfactory to Superintendent Gentsch. This messenger's name is George Chase, and he is now one of the city detectives, and who knows but the clearing up of this mystery first started him out with the idea of becoming a Sherlock Holmes?

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